

## Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

CU-02 /070 W

----- 043255

R 100958Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5252

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SF

SUBJECT: NEW POLICE COMMANDER NAMED FOR SOWETO

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1908

1. IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO REBUILD RELATIONS BETWEEN BLACKS AND POLICE (SEE REFTTEL), A NEW DIVISIONAL COMMANDER WAS NAMED TO ADMINISTER THE SOWETO POLICE DISTRICT. BRIGADIER JAN VISSER, HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS SOWETO COMMANDER IN 1974, APPEARED CONCILIATORY TOWARDS THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN QUOTED REMARKS, STATING "I BELIEVE PROPER AND MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WILL MAKE VIOLENCE UNNECESSARY."

2. HE STATED HE INTENDED TO VISIT PEOPLE IN "RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS" TO "DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS--ITS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS". HE FURTHER NOTED HE WELCOMED CRITICISM IF IT WERE CONSTRUCTIVE AND SAW HIS APPOINTMENT AS A CHALLENGE

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AND HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SUCCEED IN IMPROVING

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE OF SOWETO. AMONG SPECIFIC PROPOSALS HE MENTIONED WERE PROVIDING FACILITIES AND MATERIALS FOR DETAINED STUDENTS TO WRITE EXAMS.

3. BRIG. VISSER'S APPOINTMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN GREETED BY BLACKS AS A "WELCOME" SIGN AND ONE BLACK LEADER PROMISED THEY WOULD "TAKE THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FRANK DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF POLICE, PARTICULARLY TOWARDS CHILDREN."

4. COMMENT: BRIG. VISSER'S APPOINTMENT INDICATES THE POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTING MEND RELATIONS WITH BLACK PEOPLE. HIS COMMENTS REFLECT A MUCH GREATER AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT POLICE ACTIONS HAVE ON THE BLACK PUBLIC, ALTHOUGH HE PROMISES TO BE FIRM WITH PEOPLE WHO BREAK THE LAW. JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNITY RELATIONS, POLICE FORCES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JOHANN01926  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760418-1022  
**From:** JOHANNESBURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NEW POLICE COMMANDER NAMED FOR SOWETO  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SF, (VISSER, JAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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